
CHAPTER VI RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction	VI-1
Plan Development	VI-1
Management Actions to Implement the Resource Management Plan	VI-2
Plan Implementation	VI-17
Guidance and Standards	VI-19
Monitoring	VI-20
Amendments and Modifications to the RMP/EA	VI-21



Chapter VI

Resource Management Plan

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) followed a formal planning process to complete this planning and environmental compliance document. On the basis of the issues identified, Reclamation analyzed possible management alternatives for the 5-mile zone study area. After analyzing the four alternatives, Reclamation selected Alternative D (Natural Resources Conservation/Protection with Limited Recreation, Community, and Commercial Development) as the preferred management alternative. The preferred management alternative will be the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and is described in this chapter. (See **map VI-1**, Final Resource Management Plan Map.)

The preferred management alternative addresses two distinct areas where a variety of management actions can occur. The first area encompasses about 11,500 acres in the western portion of the study area where limited recreation, community, and commercial development may occur. The second area encompasses about 18,600 acres in the eastern portion of the study area, where land use is more restricted, and which includes the 16,000-acre Yuma Desert Management Area.

This chapter describes the goals and objectives formulated to address the issues and concerns and describes in detail the management actions Reclamation developed to facilitate accomplishment of the goals and objectives.

The management actions highlighted in this chapter were based on public input and internal review of Reclamation programs and policy. The actions should be implemented within the 10-year planning period of the RMP; however, implementation depends on, among other things, cooperation of other involved entities, cost-sharing efforts, available funding, and the success of the 5-mile zone study area working group (working group) in resolving conflicts and providing valuable input to Reclamation in its effort to prioritize the actions for funding and implementation. The working group is discussed later in this chapter. This chapter also describes the process required to amend and/or revise the RMP; discusses what monitoring efforts will be used to track the success of the RMP implementation actions, and outlines certain guidance and standards Reclamation will follow to successfully implement the RMP management actions.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Reclamation has the primary stewardship responsibility to manage the lands under its jurisdiction in accordance with existing laws, regulations, policies and guidelines. The goals and objectives and management actions outlined in this chapter must be met in an

environmentally and economically sound manner. A primary step in the planning process was to identify goals and objectives and associated management actions needed to address identified issues and concerns and that would not conflict with existing laws, regulations, policies and guidelines. In addition, many of the goals and objectives and management actions were formulated in response to basic land management principles and concepts. Pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, potential effects of implementing certain combinations of management actions (i.e., “alternatives” or management plans) were analyzed and the results disclosed. The basic challenge was to select those combinations of goals and objectives and management actions that were widely accepted by the public and agency personnel, could be implemented without serious conflicts, within the environmental resource limitations, within the planning life of the RMP, and were consistent with existing laws, regulations, policies and guidelines, as well as with the Protective and Regulatory Pumping Unit (PRPU) project purposes.

The RMP assumes that Reclamation will follow existing and future Federal laws, regulations, and Executive orders when managing lands within the study area. Attachment F provides a partial list of applicable Federal laws, regulations, and Executive orders.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

General Management Actions

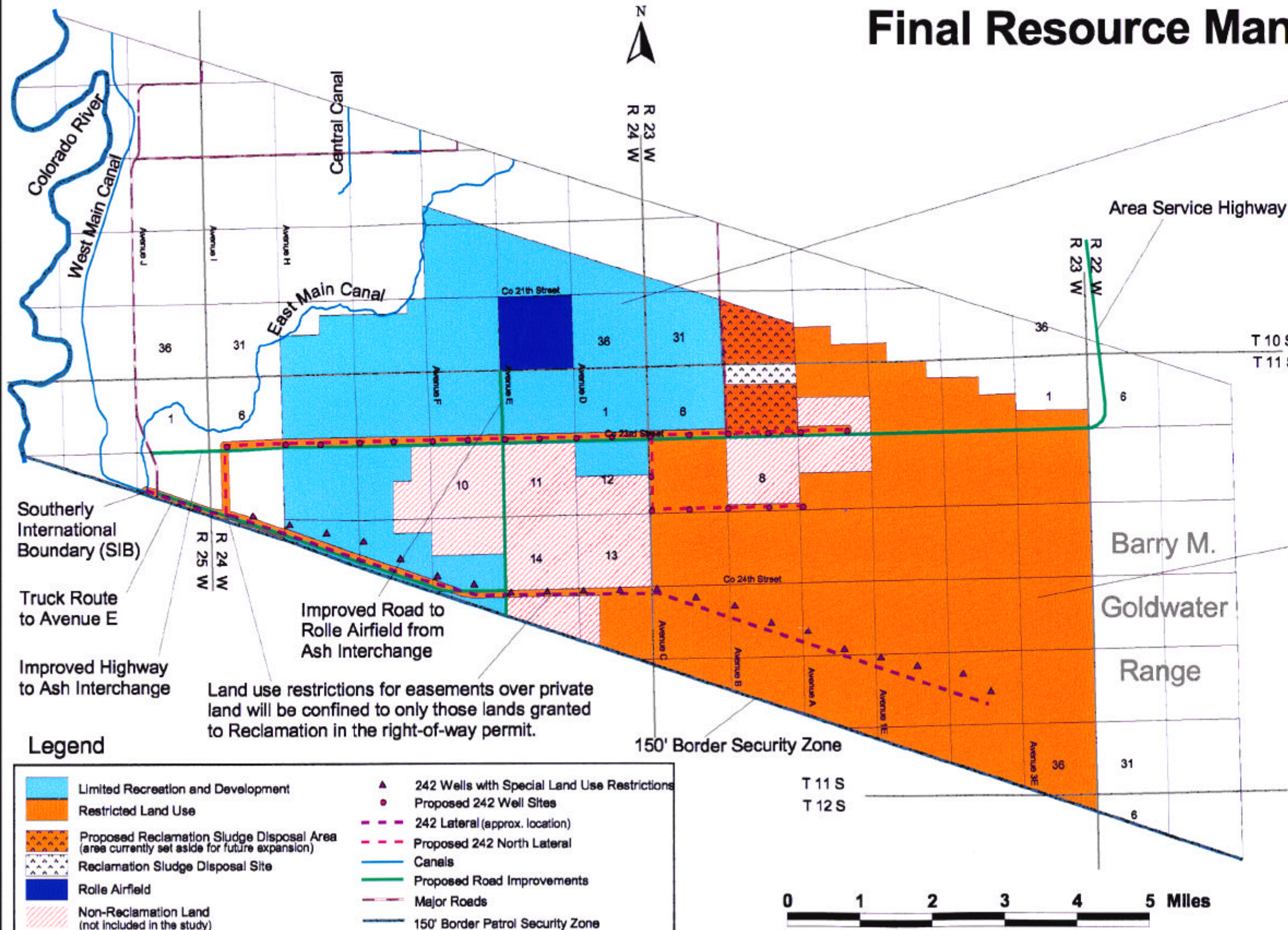
Certain general management actions were identified during the planning process to facilitate management of approximately 30,200 acres of land within the 5-mile zone study area. The following discussion sets forth those specific management actions that apply to all lands within the study area and that do not directly relate to a specific issue category. Specific management actions for the seven identified issue categories and the goals and objectives established for each issue category are detailed later in this chapter. Following are the general management actions to be implemented by Reclamation:

- ~ Continue to operate the lands within the 5-mile zone study area for the primary purposes for which the PRPU was authorized.
- ~ Implement the management actions identified in the RMP/environmental assessment (EA) within the 10-year planning period, depending on funding, personnel limitations, and cooperation of other involved entities.
- ~ Ensure management of lands with the 5-mile zone study area follows Reclamation’s existing and future *Policies and Directives and Standards*; Federal laws, regulations and Executive orders; as well as existing State, and county laws, regulations, and ordinances.
- ~ Ensure that decisions will be made for the benefit of the project and the general public.

Note: Refer to the management actions contained in Chapter VI for a more detailed description of Reclamation's management strategy for the 5-Mile Zone study area.



5-Mile Zone Final Resource Management Plan



Limited Recreation, Community, and Commercial Development

No private exclusive use; issue land use authorizations on a limited basis for community, recreational and commercial development

Cooperate with other entities on infrastructure developments and confine utilities to established corridors

Limited over-night campgrounds and day-use facilities

Seek partners to manage recreation developments

No off-highway vehicle use

No agricultural use

Hunting allowed but strictly monitored

Follow 2001 Federal Fire Management Policy

Restricted Land Use

Adhere to mitigation requirements of the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide management strategy

No pesticide treatments

No agricultural use

Special restrictions on fire suppression

Hunting allowed

No improved roads, off-highway vehicle use, or developed recreational facilities

Limited public access; land use authorizations only for public health, safety, and security purposes

Maintain existing 242 well sites; ability to develop 23 additional sites; prohibit public access or land use adjacent to existing and proposed 242 laterals and well sites

- ~ Ensure that the public use and any facility development is consistent with the goals and objectives of the RMP.
- ~ Conduct periodic land management reviews and other monitoring efforts to ensure that the lands are being managed pursuant to existing agreements and land use authorizations.
- ~ Monitor the variety of land uses to identify user conflicts and investigate corrective measures to prevent further conflicts, if necessary.

Goals and Objectives

As stated earlier, Reclamation developed goals and objectives in direct response to the issues and concerns identified through the planning and NEPA compliance process. A *goal* is a general statement that describes the desired future condition that is expected to be achieved once the RMP is fully implemented. An *objective* is a brief statement that describes a broad-based strategy that can accomplish a goal.

Specific Management Actions

Each set of goals and objectives outlined in this chapter is accompanied by specific management actions that will facilitate completion of the objectives. The following management actions are essentially the same actions identified in attachment E; however, the management actions are described in more detail and are grouped not only to show the direct relationship of the actions to the issue category but also to the goals and objectives. In many instances, a particular management action that has been identified in one issue category cannot be implemented successfully without implementing a management action(s) from another issue category (e.g., many of the land use authorization management actions under the Land Use Issue Category cannot be implemented successfully without implementing some of the management actions included in the Partnership Issue Category). Attachment G is a summary table of the proposed elements (management actions) contained in the preferred resource management plan.

Many of the actions may be specific; other actions may be broad and intended to initiate other actions that are needed to achieve the desired future condition. Examples of other actions needed are to: (1) develop a fire management plan, (2) cooperate with other entities to accomplish the action items, (3) enter into agreements with other entities to clarify responsibilities, (4) prepare a Class II or Class III cultural resources survey and (5) establish appropriate social, physical, environmental, and/or facility carrying capacities before any developments occur.

The following section lists the goals, objectives, and management actions for each of the seven issue categories: land use, water use, partnerships, natural and cultural resources management, public information, recreation management, and health and safety.

Land Use Issue Category

Land use issues and concerns focused on developing a comprehensive land use strategy that details how Reclamation might balance increased demands for the use of lands within the 5-mile zone study area for municipal expansion, infrastructure, and transportation needs while protecting natural and cultural resources and Reclamation's ability to meet its water delivery obligations to Mexico. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category will prevent unnecessary damage to existing resources and facilities within the study area, allow compatible land uses to occur within the study area, and protect the authorized purposes of the PRPU.

Land Use

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Protection of PRPU project facilities.	1. Maintain ability to plan, develop and operate, and maintain Reclamation project features.

Specific Management Actions – Land Use

- ~ Allow only those land uses that do not adversely affect existing or proposed Reclamation project features, such as laterals, canals, wells, sludge ponds, etc.
- ~ Maintain the capability to expand Reclamation's existing Yuma Desalting Plant sludge disposal site. Conduct site expansion in a manner to avoid adverse effects to water quality or loss of unique desert habitat and mitigate for habitat losses, if appropriate.
- ~ Protect Reclamation's existing 21 PRPU well sites and 23 future PRPU well sites by not allowing land use authorizations within a 600-foot corridor of these well sites.
- ~ Carefully review any proposed land exchanges or land use authorizations that would occur in the vicinity of existing or proposed Reclamation well or proposed facility locations to ensure that the exchange or transfer will not affect Reclamation's project purposes.
- ~ To protect surface and groundwater quality, do not allow agricultural uses on Reclamation lands within the study area.
- ~ Before finalizing any future land uses within the study area, define future water needs and identify solutions to address water quantity requirements to sustain such uses.
- ~ Maintain ability to operate and maintain existing and future PRPU project facilities throughout the study area, including the Yuma Desert Management Area. Proper mitigation will be completed, when necessary.

Goal	Objectives
Protect natural and cultural resources when issuing land use authorizations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid authorizing land uses in environmental and resource sensitive areas such as the Yuma Desert Management Area (flat-tailed horned lizard habitat). 2. Reclaim disturbed lands. 3. Mitigate authorized land uses.

Specific Management Actions – Land Use

- To decrease habitat fragmentation, allow land exchanges or transfers to benefit:
 - (1) Public recreation, community, and commercial opportunities on a limited basis,
 - (2) Flat tailed horned lizard habitat, or
 - (3) Natural or cultural resources.
- Adhere to mitigation measures outlined in the Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy when authorizing land use authorizations on Reclamation lands.
- When ground-disturbing activities occur within the 5-mile zone study area—in particular the 16,000-acre Yuma Desert Management Area—follow the mitigation measures outlined in 1997 Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Management Strategy, appendix 3, entitled “List of Standard Mitigation Measures for Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard.” The mitigation measures may be modified to conform to the scope of the intended ground-disturbing activity. (See **map V-6** for boundary of the Yuma Desert Management Area.)
- Allow no uses or activities that adversely affect Indian trust assets or cultural resources unless proper mitigation measures are provided.
- Avoid Indian sacred sites and traditional cultural properties when issuing land use authorizations pursuant to existing regulations and Reclamation policy.
- Initiate a comprehensive weed control program to effectively eliminate and prevent the spread of noxious weeds.
- It is recommended that no pesticide treatments be applied within the Yuma Desert Management Area. However, if pesticide application is necessary, Reclamation will follow the guidance provided in the 1997 Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Management Strategy, page 23, “Pesticide Use.”
- Revegetate land reclaimed by closing off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails/roads only with native plant species. When revegetation activities occur within the 5-mile zone study area—in particular the Yuma Desert Management Area—Reclamation will follow the guidance provided in the 1997 Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Management Strategy, appendix 8, entitled “Overview of Techniques for Rehabilitation of Lands in Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Management Areas.”
- Do not allow uses that adversely affect endangered or threatened species, or critical habitat unless proper mitigation measures are provided.

Goal	Objectives
Development of a comprehensive land use strategy to manage the 5-mile zone study area.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restrict land uses to certain areas. 2. Balance the types of land uses authorized in the future. 3. Maintain appropriate land base to accommodate PRPU purposes. 4. Establish utility corridors. 5. Establish fire management strategy. 6. Maintain existing land use authorizations.

Specific Management Actions – Land Use

- Concentrate development in the western portion of the study area (about 11,500 acres) and protect and enhance the natural resources in the eastern portion of the study area (about 18,600 acres), including the Yuma Desert Management Area.
- Use the guidance provided in the 1997 Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Management Strategy when managing the Yuma Desert Management Area within the 5-mile zone study area. In particular, follow the “General Management Study,” page 30, and “Planning Actions,” page 34, in cooperation with other entities, if applicable.
- Continue with the terms and conditions of the 1986 lease agreement between Reclamation and Yuma County and cooperate with the county when elements of the Rolle Airfield airport master plan are initiated.
- If the city of San Luis were to purchase the Hillander “C” tract, consider exchanging certain Federal lands in the western portion of the study area to the city.
- Ensure lands received into Federal ownership are contiguous to the study area.
- Through lands transfers or exchanges, do not allow the base land acreage within the study area to decrease.
- Include restrictive clauses in conveyance documents for use of Federal lands that may be exchanged or conveyed to private parties to ensure that potential uses do not impede Reclamation’s ability to manage the 5-mile zone study area for Reclamation and other federally mandated purposes.
- Do not allow the sale of Reclamation lands without land exchanges or other forms of just compensation.
- Prefer short-term compatible uses of Reclamation lands but allow long-term uses under strict conditions and stipulations.
- Ensure that land uses within the study area are compatible with adjacent land uses and will result in minimal adverse effects on groundwater quality; do not allow the use of groundwater for agricultural purposes, as already stated.
- Continue to follow existing requirements and regulations governing the issuance of land use authorizations within the study area (i.e., the RMP does not change the procedures and requirements).
- Issue land use authorizations in the western portion of the study area on a limited basis to benefit community, recreation, and commercial development.

Specific Management Actions – Land Use (continued)

- ~ Issue land use authorizations within the Yuma Desert Management Area only for public health and safety and security purposes. (Also see “Partnerships.”)
 - ~ Establish carrying capacities (see chapter 3 for details) during the planning phases of any development to determine the location, type, and appropriate number of facilities to be constructed and that would provide maximum protection of natural resources. Capacities would emphasize controlled public access and reduced use in some areas.
 - ~ Allow no new primary public road construction other than that discussed under “Partnerships.”
 - ~ Allow maintenance of existing roads, recognizing that maintenance of some roads may be necessary to prevent proliferation of parallel routes.
 - ~ Allow for the construction of secondary roads in the western portion of the study area to provide access to campgrounds, day use facilities, and trailheads, if these facilities are constructed.
 - ~ Require appropriate mitigation for any new secondary road construction and associated surface disturbance.
 - ~ Use Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping as a planning tool to help managers make land use suitability and capacity decisions.
 - ~ Provide utility corridors along 23rd Street to Avenue B; along the proposed truck route from the city of San Luis paralleling the international border to Avenue E; and from the ASH interchange at Avenue E and 23rd Street north to Rolle Airfield and south to the port-of-entry. Confine all future utilities to these designated utility corridors.
 - ~ Follow the updated 2001 Federal Fire Management Policy and the Secretary of the Interior’s 2001 policy letter and develop a fire management plan for the study area. Suppress fires in the Yuma Desert Management Area using a mix of the following methods:
 - (1) Aerial attack with fire retardants,
 - (2) Crews using hand tools to create fire breaks, and
 - (3) Mobile attack engines limited to public roads, designated open routes, and routes authorized for limited use.
 - ~ When suppressing fires, prohibit use of earth-moving equipment, such as bulldozers, within the Yuma Desert Management Area, except in critical situations to protect life, property, or resources. Post-suppression mitigation will include rehabilitation of firebreaks and other ground disturbance using hand tools. When developing a fire management plan for the study area, Reclamation will incorporate appropriate guidance contained in the 1997 Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Management Strategy, page 22, “Fire Management.”
 - ~ Ensure a balance among wildlife resources, recreational opportunities, and authorized activities issued through land use agreements.
 - ~ Consider soil conditions and other environmental conditions or limitations when developing future facilities.
 - ~ Ensure that no land use authorizations are granted for private, exclusive use of Reclamation lands.
-

Water Use Issue Category

Water use issues and concerns focused on providing a water use strategy. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category will protect Reclamation's ability to meet its water delivery obligations to Mexico.

Water Use

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Protection of authorized PRPU project purposes.	1. Limit water use within the 5-mile zone study area.

Specific Management Actions – Water Use

- If groundwater pumping in the 5-mile zone study area reaches or approaches 160,000 acre-feet per year, require a land use applicant within the study area to obtain water from a surface or groundwater source outside the study area.
- Any use of groundwater in the study area will be subject to reduction or termination if Reclamation needs the water to meet its delivery obligations to Mexico.
- Maintain the capability to pump approximately 140,000 acre-feet of water a year from the PRPU for delivery to the Southerly International Boundary (SIB) to partially satisfy the United States water delivery obligations to Mexico.
- Continue to regulate the quantity of water pumped from wells within the 5-mile zone by enforcing stipulations contained in land use authorization documents such as licenses, leases, and permits that Reclamation has granted to other entities.
- Consider water pumped from existing and future wells within the 5-mile zone as Colorado River water and implement procedures to account for such water in accordance with Article V of the Supreme Court Decree in *Arizona v. California*.
- Evaluate requests for increases in water usage within the study area based on established Reclamation water accounting procedures in order to protect the ability to satisfy treaty obligations to Mexico and other contractual agreements as well as agreements to improve the quality of water delivered to Mexico at the SIB.
- Avoid groundwater contamination or degradation.
- Do not allow landscaping for developments unless it is determined to be water-conserving (e.g., xeriscaping).

Partnerships Issue Category

Partnership issues and concerns focused on creating partnerships with a variety of entities to facilitate management of the 5-mile zone study area. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category would secure partners to help manage the study area and would define the roles and responsibilities of all involved entities that have an interest in the management of the study area.

Partnerships

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Formation of cooperative partnerships to achieve the goals and objectives of the RMP.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with involved entities to implement the RMP management actions. 2. Continue to seek public input during the 10-year life of the RMP. 3. Provide an appropriate level of public access to areas within the study area, or designate areas closed to public use, if necessary.

Specific Management Actions – Partnerships

- ~ Cooperate with concerned parties in establishing a working group to help Reclamation identify potential options to resolving general 5-mile zone study area issues and to implement the specific RMP management actions.
- ~ When cooperating with other entities, consider Reclamation-authorized project needs and access.
- ~ Seek public/private partnerships and volunteers to support management of the 5-mile zone study area.
- ~ If areas are closed to public use, enter into a cooperative agreement(s) with appropriate entities to enforce such closures(s) (i.e., area(s) designated as closed to protect the public safety or to protect project features such as laterals, canals, well sites, sludge ponds, or to protect natural resources, etc.).

International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC)

- ~ Continue to cooperate with the IBWC, U.S. Geological Survey, and private and municipal and industrial and agricultural water users to account for water use within the 5-mile zone study area.
- ~ Continue to maintain and monitor observation wells within the 5-mile zone study area and install new observation wells, as needed.

Border Patrol

- ~ Process the application from the Border Patrol to increase the width of its protective zone from 90 feet to 150 feet. Do not allow developments and the issuance of land use authorizations within this 150-foot zone.
- ~ Enter into an agreement with the Border Patrol that outlines each agency's role and responsibility within the 5-mile zone study area.
- ~ Identify existing and future drag roads and surveillance towers. Reclamation should approve locations of future drag roads and towers within the study area.
- ~ So as not to interfere with the Border Patrol's mission, coordinate the limited construction of fences within the study area.

Specific Management Actions– Partnerships (continued)

Border Patrol (continued)

- ~ In cooperation with the Border Patrol and to protect Reclamation facilities and flat-tailed horned lizard habitat, establish reasonable and necessary standards and guidelines for Border Patrol OHV use within the study area. Consider allowing off-road vehicle use, when necessary, to fulfill the Border Patrol's mission.
- ~ Provide education programs and materials to Border Patrol to enhance awareness of flat-tailed horned lizard issues and protection measures.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- ~ Increase efforts with BLM to redefine each agency's responsibilities within and outside the study area, pursuant to the existing agreement and *Departmental Manual 613*.

MCAS

- ~ Cooperate with MCAS to limit recreation use in the eastern portion of the study area and along the western boundary of the Barry M. Goldwater Range.
- ~ Cooperate with the MCAS on flat-tailed horned lizard management issues and projects.

**State of Arizona, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT),
City of San Luis – Public Access**

- ~ Cooperate with ADOT and Federal Highway Administration to obtain the needed permits and environmental clearances to construct the Area Service Highway (ASH) within the study area boundary, including the major interchange at 23rd Street and Avenue E.
- ~ Ensure that ADOT implements appropriate mitigation measures if ASH construction adversely affects existing or planned well sites or other facilities within the PRPU or if it adversely affects the flat-tailed horned lizard or its habitat.
- ~ Cooperate with appropriate entities to obtain needed permits and environmental clearances in the future to construct a major road from the ASH interchange at 23rd Street and Avenue E north to Rolle Airfield.
- ~ Cooperate with the city of San Luis to obtain needed permits and environmental clearances to construct an improved highway from San Luis east along 23rd Street to the ASH interchange at 23rd Street and Avenue E.
- ~ Cooperate with the city of San Luis to obtain the necessary permits and environmental clearances to construct a truck route from San Luis to the new commercial port-of-entry. The truck route will parallel the international boundary east from the city to 24th Street, then follow 24th Street east to Avenue B, then continue south to the new commercial port-of-entry.
- ~ Cooperate with other entities, such as the city of San Luis, to keep all utilities within road corridors/rights-of-way established for the ASH, road to Rolle Airfield, and 23rd Street to the minimum security prison—portions of which are part of the ASH—and the truck route from the city of San Luis to Avenue E.
- ~ Ensure that all new roads are fenced, if such fencing does not interfere with the Border Patrol's mission.

Specific Management Actions– Partnerships (continued)**Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD)**

- ~ Cooperate and enter into appropriate agreements with AGFD to protect wildlife habitat and to develop public education programs to foster awareness and conservation of unique desert species.
- ~ Cooperate and enter into appropriate agreements with AGFD to develop and implement inventory, monitoring, and protection plans for other special status species.
- ~ Cooperate with AGFD to continue to allow hunting within the study area; however, cooperate with the AGFD and other concerned entities in monitoring any developed public use areas to determine if limited hunting closures should be initiated to protect visitors or project features. State law already prohibits shooting within ¼ mile of occupied facilities. Reclamation lands are considered open to hunting unless area(s) are specifically designated closed
- ~ Cooperate and enter into appropriate agreements with AGFD to enforce hunting closures, if determined necessary.
- ~ Cooperate and enter into appropriate agreements with the AGFD to enforce OHV closures designated by Reclamation within the study area. Reclamation must install appropriate signs designating such closures before AGFD can legally enforce such closures.

Yuma County

- ~ Ensure close cooperation and coordination with the Yuma County planning and zoning commission to review its comprehensive plan and to assist in its goal to “keep population out of valleys.”
- ~ Cooperate with Yuma County when the elements of the Rolle Airfield airport master plan are initiated.

Yuma Area Water Resources Management Group (YAWRMG)

- ~ Continue to cooperate with the YAWRMG in an effort to manage the water resources in the Yuma area.

Other

- ~ Cooperate with appropriate entities and enter into necessary agreements that define the roles and responsibilities of entities that would be involved in constructing, operating and maintaining water stations for illegal immigrants and others. (Also see “Health and Safety.”)
-

Natural and Cultural Resources Management Issue Category

Natural and cultural resource management issues and concerns focused on protecting the flat-tailed horned lizard and its associated habitat; protecting the unique desert habitat within the study area; managing threatened, endangered, and other special status species; and protecting Indian tribal interests. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category would protect the natural and cultural resources, wildlife species and habitat, and tribal interests within the study area.

Natural and Cultural Resources Management

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Enhance and protect all natural resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop a line of communication with entities concerned with protecting cultural resources.2. Provide a reasonable level of oversight to protect cultural resources.3. Require all entities doing business on Reclamation lands to provide enough notification of pending actions to allow Reclamation to comply with pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.

Specific Management Actions – Natural and Cultural Resources

- ~ Continue to fully comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Federal undertakings.
 - ~ Consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and area Indian tribes, as required by 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800, as revised, to locate and identify any cultural resources within the study area before initiating any Federal undertaking.
 - ~ In consultation with the SHPO and area Indian tribes and based on the Class I survey, develop a research design for conducting Class II or Class III surveys to determine areas of high or low potential for cultural resources, including traditional cultural properties, within the study area.
 - ~ Conduct intensive cultural resource surveys of areas with high potential for cultural resources and/or any areas scheduled for ground-disturbing or potentially ground-disturbing activities to locate cultural resources.
 - ~ During ground disturbing activities, make every effort to avoid significant cultural resources.
-

Goal	Objectives
Protection of the unique desert habitat and management of threatened, endangered, and special status species.	1. Follow existing Federal laws, rules and regulations, as well as existing management strategies.

Specific Management Actions – Natural and Cultural Resources

- ~ Protect flat-tailed horned lizard and associated habitat under the guidance contained in the 1997 Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Rangeland Management Strategy.
- ~ Increase the level of effort to protect threatened and endangered (T&E) and other special status species.
- ~ Define and implement management actions necessary to minimize loss or degradation of flat-tailed horned lizard habitat.
- ~ As needed, mitigate and compensate PRPU project and RMP management action(s) impacts on the flat-tailed horned lizard both within and outside the Yuma Desert Management Area.
- ~ Implement various protective measures within the Yuma Desert Management Area.

Public Information and Education Issue Category

Public information and education issues and concerns focused on providing a variety of public information about the 5-mile zone study area through different media (e.g., Internet, brochures, radio, maps, and pamphlets); providing appropriate signing detailing the rules and regulations and land restrictions; and providing a variety of interpretative opportunities for the visiting public. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category would enhance the visitor experience; interpret the different resources; and educate the public on the proper use of Federal lands.

Public Information and Education

Goal	Objectives
Enhance public information.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish clear, consistent bilingual signage to guide public use of the 5-mile zone study area. 2. Communicate with the public using a variety of media such as printed bilingual material, maps, photos, brochures, web sites, etc.

Specific Management Actions – Public Information and Education

- ~ Inventory signing needs within the 5-mile zone study area and post appropriate bilingual regulatory and informational signs to inform and educate the public about the use of Reclamation lands and facilities.
 - ~ Provide interpretive maps, brochures, pamphlets at convenient public contact areas, such as government buildings, tourism centers. Provide expanded Internet information services to the public. Printed and Internet material will be bilingual, as needed.
 - ~ Prepare and make available public information and education about the Yuma Desert Management Area and other lands within the 5-mile zone study area, including the purposes of the flat-tailed horned lizard management areas and pertinent regulations governing the use of such lands.
 - ~ Ensure that interpretation and public information emphasize appreciation and protection of the natural and cultural resources and promote conservation and preservation.
 - ~ Post bilingual interpretive signs in areas with interesting natural and cultural values.
 - ~ Post bilingual interpretive signs at trailheads or parking areas to allow visitors to appreciate the resources from “a distance.”
 - ~ Post bilingual OHV closure signs in appropriate areas.
 - ~ Ensure that all signs posted (bilingual) near the international boundary indicate the location of the boundary between the United States and Mexico.
-

Recreation Management Issue Category

Recreation management issues and concerns focused on restricting OHV use, maintaining hunting access, providing limited day use opportunities and support facilities; and providing recreation activities that are compatible with adjacent land uses and the Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category would allow limited recreation use to occur while protecting the natural and cultural resources within the study area.

Recreation Management

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Establish appropriate campground and day use facilities and opportunities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure a managing partner to provide recreation facilities and opportunities. 2. Follow appropriate design and construction standards when developing facilities. 3. Avoid environmental and resource sensitive areas. 4. Restrict development to certain areas within the 5-mile zone study area. 5. Cooperate with appropriate entities.

Specific Management Actions – Recreation

- ~ Pursuant Public Law, 89-72, as amended, Reclamation will not provide recreation facilities unless a non-Federal or another Federal entity has agreed to develop, operate, and maintain such facilities on a long-term basis in lieu of Reclamation development and management.
- ~ In lieu of a non-Federal government entity and if economically feasible, Reclamation will investigate the possibility of securing a commercial business to construct, operate, and maintain a limited number of recreation facilities within the study area, including campgrounds, concessions, and trails.
- ~ Ensure recreation opportunities provided are compatible with adjacent existing land uses, such as those prescribed in the San Luis General Plan and the Barry M. Goldwater Integrated Resource Management Plan.
- ~ Ensure overnight and day use facility development are constructed in consultation with the Border Patrol to ensure that its roles and responsibilities are not impeded.
- ~ Concentrate recreation developments, if any, in the western portion of the study area.
- ~ To protect public safety and to protect Reclamation investments, do not allow recreation development or public use on or adjacent to existing or planned Reclamation project features, such as the 242 Lateral or PRPU. This also includes Reclamation easements across private lands.
- ~ Ensure any recreation developments within the study area are based on public demand, which will be determined prior to initiating any site development planning. In addition, if public demand is sufficient, Reclamation, in cooperation with a managing partner, will establish carrying capacities during the planning phase of development to determine the location, type, and appropriate number of facilities to be constructed and to afford maximum protection of natural and cultural resources. Capacities will emphasize controlled public access and reduced use in some areas. GIS mapping will be used to help identify physical and environmental carrying capacities. Existing information, such as demographic statistics, public use surveys, and the Arizona State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, will be used to help establish social carrying capacity limits.
- ~ If recreation facilities are determined to be feasible, Reclamation and its managing partner will follow, to the extent possible, the general design criteria listed in attachment H or the appropriate design standards of the managing entity.

Specific Management Actions – Recreation (continued)

- ~ If campgrounds are constructed, each shall have a 14-day camping restriction, or a length of stay that Reclamation determines is appropriate, and limited support facilities, such as potable water, restrooms, trash receptacles, and shade shelters.
- ~ In cooperation with a non-Federal government entity, support construction of nonmotorized, multi-use trails of limited length in the western portion of the study area in a manner to minimize adverse effects on the natural and cultural resources.
- ~ Trails would be limited to foot traffic, equestrians, nonmotorized bicycles, and wheelchair users (motorized and nonmotorized) and will provide hiking, photography, wildlife observation, interpretation, and nature study opportunities.
- ~ Pave or harden portions of developed trails to provide access to persons with disabilities.
- ~ Ensure trail development follows the general design guidelines listed in attachment I.

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Prevention of resource damage caused by OHV use.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prohibit OHV use within the 5-mile zone study area. 2. Reclaim disturbed areas caused by past OHV use.

Specific Management Actions – Recreation

- ~ Pursuant to existing Federal law and Reclamation policy, close OHV trails/roads.
 - ~ Restrict the public to using vehicles only on designated roads. Exceptions will be made for emergency vehicles used for such purposes as fire and search and rescue, as well as for vehicles used by the Border Patrol to accomplish its mission.
 - ~ Implement rehabilitation measures using native species.
 - ~ Prepare a travel management plan detailing OHV trails/roads to be closed and revegetated and to identify designated vehicular roads.
 - ~ Install OHV closure signs at appropriate locations within the study area.
 - ~ AGFD to enforce OHV closures through an agreement with Reclamation.
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Health and Safety Issue Category

Health and safety issues and concerns focused on providing appropriate law enforcement to enforce rules and regulations established for the study area, providing appropriate sanitation facilities, and removing trash, such as abandoned automobiles. Meeting the goals and objectives established for this issue category would provide a safe and healthy environment for visitors within the study area.

Health and Safety

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Promote the health and safety of users of the 5-mile zone study area.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote proactive law enforcement activities. 2. Respond to and correct unsafe conditions within the 5-mile zone study area. 3. Provide adequate public safety measures for protection of visitors.

Specific Management Actions – Health and Safety

- ~ Ensure that visitor health and safety is the primary focus when constructing facilities and providing visitor use opportunities.
- ~ Ensure that Reclamation project features and structures are properly fenced and signed to protect facilities from vandalism and to protect the safety of the public.
- ~ Enforce rules and regulations to discourage unauthorized use within the boundary of the 5-mile zone study area and promote proactive law enforcement activities.
- ~ Increase efforts to enforce rules and regulations to discourage random shooting and OHV use to reduce or eliminate wildlife harassment and habitat loss.
- ~ Post appropriate bilingual warning signs within the 5-mile zone study area to warn visitors of potential hazards.
- ~ Post bilingual rules and regulations governing the use of Reclamation lands at visitor contact areas.
- ~ Promote the Crime Witness Protection Program to promote public safety.
- ~ Respond to and correct unsafe conditions immediately.
- ~ Remove abandoned vehicles, washers, dryers, refrigerators, and other trash from illegal dump sites in the study area.
- ~ Initiate efforts to keep the study area free of trash.
- ~ Install water stations for illegal immigrants and others. (Also see “Partnerships.”)
- ~ Keep public use away from existing or proposed Reclamation project features. (Also see “Recreation Management.”)

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Reclamation is primarily responsible for implementing the RMP. Approval and acceptance of the RMP/EA by involved agencies include a commitment by Reclamation and other entities, where appropriate, to seek financial, program, and staffing resources necessary to implement the proposed actions. Because funding is uncertain, implementation of specific actions will require close coordination between Reclamation and the many other parties (stakeholders) interested in the management and use of study area lands.

Other factors that may influence the implementation of a particular action are based on whether the action: (1) is procedural or technical, such as preparing agreements or developing specific plans; (2) addresses public health and safety concerns; (3) is in compliance with existing laws and regulations; (4) is required to prevent resource damage or protect wildlife species or habitats; or (5) requires large capital investments, such as trail or facility development.

Successful planning and coordination will be necessary to identify annual program priorities and will be essential to secure funding necessary to accommodate the goals and objectives of this RMP. To aid in planning for future needs and development, Reclamation will serve as the lead agency to collaborate with appropriate stakeholders (working group) on a periodic basis to discuss issues, concerns, and solutions and to identify funding sources. This working group (figure VI-1) will identify concerns and help Reclamation decide which projects should be funded and who will fund them. Once a budget is approved, Reclamation could then implement specific actions.

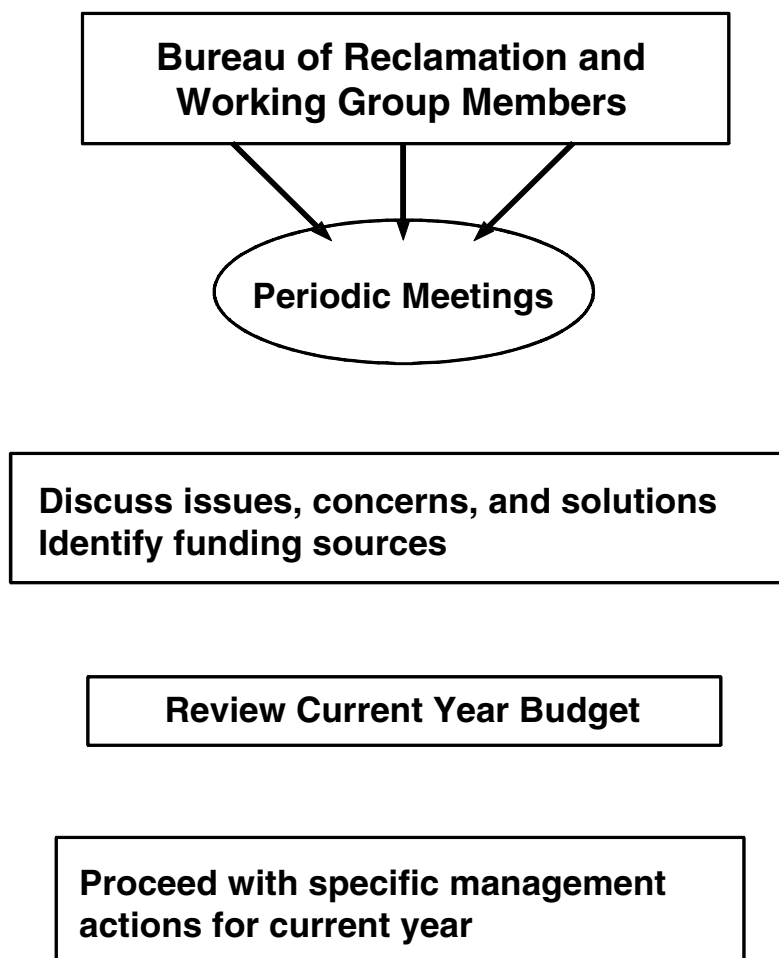


Figure V1-1.—Working Group Process.

GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS

To initiate and implement the RMP management actions, specific guidance or standards will be followed. The guidance and standards are in the form of Federal laws and regulations, Executive orders, CFRs, existing agreements, State and local laws and regulations, best management practices, or other directives. In many instances, the guidance and standards will be the Reclamation manual for a specific program. Reclamation will follow all Federal laws, regulations, and Executive orders, particularly those listed in attachment F, and pertinent agreements and guidance documents when implementing the management actions documented in this chapter. For example, if Reclamation constructs public use facilities, such as campgrounds and trails, it will follow appropriate up-to-date design and construction standards as well as the Criteria for Facility Development (attachment H) and Criteria for Nonmotorized, Multiuse Trail Development (attachment I).

Two very important aspects of implementing the management actions are to ensure that Reclamation's ability to operate and maintain the PRPU is not impeded and that the flat-tailed horned lizard and its habitat are not affected. Therefore, in addition to the various laws, regulations, and guidance documents, Reclamation will be guided more specifically by Section 103(a) of the Colorado Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974 and the 1997 Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Management Strategy when implementing the management actions.

Reclamation also will follow the guidance provided in its published manuals, the more important of which are the following policies, directives, and standards related to:

- ~ Pest Management/Resource Protection (Integrated Pest Management), ENV 01-01¹
- ~ Underground Storage Tank Management, ENV 02-01¹
- ~ Pollution Prevention - Hazardous and Solid Waste Minimization, ENV 02-04¹
- ~ Management of Shooting Ranges on Reclamation Lands, ENV 02-07¹
- ~ Implementation of the Cost Sharing Authorities for Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, LND 01-01¹
- ~ Cultural Resources Management, LND 02-01¹
- ~ Land Withdrawals, Withdrawal Reviews, and Withdrawal Revocations, LND 03-01¹
- ~ Concessions Management by Non-Federal Partners, LND- 04-02¹
- ~ Real Estate Appraisal, LND 05-01¹
- ~ Land Acquisition, LND 06-01¹
- ~ Land Use Authorizations, LND 08-01¹

¹ These designations refer to the numbering system of the manuals. For example, ENV 01-01 is the Environmental Series, Part 01, chapter 01; LND 01-01 is the Land Series, part 01, chapter 01.

- ~ Land Disposal, LND 08-02
- ~ Real Property Management Records, LND 09-10

For more detailed information, access Reclamation manuals at http://www.usbr.gov/recman/d_and_s.htm.

MONITORING

To track the success of implementing the management actions, monitoring activities will be initiated (i.e., how to evaluate, observe, enforce, comply, or document that a management action is achieved). Monitoring will occur over the 10-year expected life of the RMP and will be initiated once the management actions have been implemented.

Following is a partial list of possible reviews and monitoring efforts that may help Reclamation track the success of implementing certain management actions:

- ~ Real Property Utilization Reviews
- ~ Recreation Compliance Reviews
- ~ Withdrawal Reviews
- ~ Hazardous Waste Management Reviews
- ~ Land Use Authorization Reviews
- ~ Review of Pest Management/Resource Protection Plans
- ~ Water Quality Monitoring
- ~ Groundwater Level Monitoring
- ~ Facility Condition Assessments
- ~ Accessibility Reviews
- ~ Review/Monitoring of Underground Storage Tanks
- ~ Annual review of Reclamation's Yuma Desalting Plant sludge disposal site, pursuant to its Aquifer Protection Permit.

In addition to these monitoring activities, which Reclamation routinely conducts on its lands and which will help in monitoring the success of implementing the management actions, several monitoring efforts have been mentioned specifically as action items in the RMP. The important monitoring efforts mentioned in the RMP are:

- ~ Ensuring that the public use and facility development are consistent with the goals and objectives of the RMP.
- ~ Closing areas for public safety and security purposes, as a result of monitoring efforts.
- ~ Ensuring that project features are protected by restricting public use as a result of monitoring efforts.

- ~ Conducting periodic land management reviews and other monitoring efforts to ensure that the lands are being managed pursuant to existing agreements and land use authorizations.
- ~ Monitoring the variety of land uses to identify user conflicts and investigate corrective measures to prevent further conflicts from occurring.
- ~ Cooperating and entering into agreements with AGFD to develop and implement inventory, monitoring, and protection plans for other special status species.
- ~ Continuing to cooperate with the IBWC to account for water use within the 5-mile zone study area.
- ~ Continuing to maintain and monitor observation wells within the 5-mile zone study area and install new observations wells, as needed.

Reclamation will use a combination of the above-mentioned monitoring efforts in cooperation with involved entities to track the success of the management actions once they are implemented.

AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE RMP/EA

Reclamation may revise or amend the RMP within the established 10-year planning period. During the implementation or monitoring phases of the RMP, Reclamation, other agencies, or the public may identify problems, deficiencies, or additional issues that should be addressed. Changes in the social, economic, physical, or environmental conditions may also necessitate changes to the RMP/EA. Minor changes in data or material that do not conflict with the established goals and objectives would be documented by Reclamation and would not require further public involvement and NEPA compliance. Changes that would modify one or more of the prescribed decisions and require major changes to the established goals and objectives would be documented by an amendment to the RMP and may require further public involvement and NEPA compliance. Reclamation will determine the level of public involvement and NEPA compliance.

The RMP is expected to be re-evaluated at the end of the 10-year planning period (year 2013) to determine whether or not the RMP should be updated. The planning and NEPA process used to complete this RMP/EA will be used to prepare an updated RMP/EA.